

Message Text

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20

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-10 SAM-01 ACDA-05 /091 W

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R 251000Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2545

INFO USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 5163

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SS MO AL UN SP

SUBJ: SPANISH SAHARA: HIGH LEVEL SPANISH/ALGERIAN CONTACTS
AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

SUMMARY: ALGERIAN AMB SAW FRANCO JULY 21, REPORTEDLY
TO TURN OVER MESSAGE FROM BOUMEDIENE. MFA OFFICIALS,
WHILE RELUCTANT TO COMMENT ON SUBSTANCE OF VISIT, UNDER-
SCORED IMPORTANCE OF "CONVERGENCE" OF ALGERIAN AND SPANISH
POSITIONS AT ICJ. GOS, WHILE PREPARED TO RELINQUISH CONTROL
OF SAHARA, IS AT LOSS TO FIND VALID SAHARAN FORCES TO WHOM
TO TURN OVER AUTHORITY. F POLISARIO IS SEEN AS INCREASINGLY
MARXIST IN ORIENTATION. SPANISH/MOROCCAN RELATIONS HAVE
APPARENTLY WORSENERD AS RESULT OF CAPTURE OF MOROCCAN PATROL
IN SAHARA, MAKING TOTAL OF 61 MOROCCANS NOW HELD BY SPANIARDS
AND BY RENEWED MOROCCAN DEMANDS AGAINST PRESIDIOS OF CEUTA
AND MELILLA. END SUMMARY

1. FRANCO RECEIVED ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR ACCOMPANIED BY
FONMIN CORTINA JULY 21, NORMALLY A DAY IN WHICH FRANCO DOES
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NOT RECEIVE FOREIGN VISITORS. ALTHOUGH MFA OFFICIALS HAVE

BEEN CLOSEMOUTHERD ABOUT SUBSTANCE OF MEETING, THEY HAVE ALLUDED TO "CONVERGENCE" OF SPANISH AND ALGERIAN POSITIONS ON SELF-DETERMINATION AT ICJ.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THERE IS CONSIDERABLE GOS/GOA DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY INVOLVING EFFORTS TO RESOLVE PROBLEM OF PRESENCE OF 14 SPANISH SOLDIERS IN HANDS OF F POLISARIO ON ALGERIAN TERRITORY. TWO SOLDIERS WERE RELEASED TWO WEEKS AGO, AND GOS, WHICH HAS BEEN UNABLE TO ESTABLISH EFFECTIVE CONTACT WITH F POLISARIO, HAS PUBLICLY INDICATED THAT ISSUE COULD ONLY BE RESOLVED IN GOVT TO GOVT TALKS BETWEEN SPAIN AND ALGERIA.

3. ACCORDING TO MFA SOURCES, F POLISARIO RAISED ISSUE OF SAHARA IN OAU MEETING IN KAMPALA JULY 19, EXPRESSING ITS DEMAND FOR SELF-DETERMINATION AND OAU SUPPORT FOR THIS SOLUTION. DIRGEN OF SAHARAN AFFAIRS EXPRESSED VIEW TO EMBOFF JULY 23 THAT F POLISARIO HAD BECOME INCREASINGLY MARXIST IN ORIENTATION AND, ALTHOUGH IT HAD SOME STRENGTH IN SAHARA, GOS WOULD NOT CONSIDER IT AS BEST GROUP TO WHOM TO TURN OVER POWER. DIRGEN SAID SPAIN'S KEY PROBLEM IN SAHARA AT PRESENT WAS TO ANSWER QUESTION ABOUT TO WHOM THY SHOULD TURN OVER AUTHORITY WHEN THEY LEAVE. SAHARAN PARTY OF NATIONAL UNION (PUNS) HAS HAD DISAPPOINTING BEGINNING, HE SAID, AND GOS WAS LOOKING INCREASINGLY TO KEY LEADERS IN LOCAL NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (YEMAA). DEIGEN SAID MOROCCAN AGENTS WERE IN CONTACT WITH MANY OF THESE LEADERS. ONE ALTERNATIVE, HE SPECULATED, WAS POSSIBILITY OF FEDERATION BETWEEN MOROCCO AND SAHARA ON BASIS OF YEMAA DECISION.

4. DIRGEN IN PRESIDENCY SAID ONE OBSTACLE TO RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM WITH MOROCCO WAS IN SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTRY IN PERSON OF CORTINA WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS "INFLEXIBLE". SECOND PROBLEM WAS ESCALATION BY MOROCCO OF INCIDENTS IN SAHARA AND DEMANDS AGAINST PRESIDIOS OF CEUTA AND MELILLA. (PRESS REPORTS THAT GOM SENT NOTE JUNE 30 TO UN DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE TREATENING UNILATERAL ACTION TO PROTECT MOROCCAN CITIZENS UNLESS GOS STOPPED ARRESTING MOROCCANS IN CEUTA AND MELILLA.) IN HIS VIEW, OPPOSITION TO KING HASSAN WAS PUSHING KING INTO ADOPTION OF ITS DEMANDS. GOS, HE SAID, PREFERRED TO MAKE DEAL WITH MOROCCO
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THAN WITH ALGERIA, BUT WAS WELL AWARE OF HASSAN'S INSTABILITY AND STRENGTH OF OPPOSITION IN ESCALATING NATIONALISTIC MOROCCAN DEMANDS.

5. LOCAL PRESS ANNOUNCED JULY 23 THAT ON PREVIOUS DAY MOROCCAN ARMY PATROL WITH 16 MEMBERS WAS CAPTURED WITHOUT FIRING A SHOT BY SPANISH ARMY UNITS IN SAHARA. THIS IS FIRST MILITARY INCIDENT IN SEVERAL WEEKS. GOS NOW HOLD 61 MOROCCAN

ARMY PRISONERS IN SAHARA INCLUDING THOSE CAPTURED IN MAY
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, MEETINGS, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, ARRESTS, SELFDETERMINATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MADRID05163
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750258-0428
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750722/aaaaatku.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <22 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPANISH SAHARA: HIGH LEVEL SPANISH/ALGERIAN CONTACTS AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: PFOR, SS, MO, AL, SP, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006